

poor parents. He went to Naples to the Conservatorio, and produced his first Opera "Le punitore delle donne" in 1796. It was a light comic Opera and was success. But it was as a great representative of Opera in the interval between Gluck and Meyerbeer that he is memorable. The first of his really important work "Le Vestale" was produced in Paris in 1807. A very notable work rich in feeling and planned on a very grand scale, with enormous and interesting orchestral effects. It has held the stage ever to the present day. His next grand work was "Fernand Cortez" which was produced in 1809. In 1810 he was made director of the Italian Opera in Paris, and in that capacity produced Mozart's Don Giovanni in its original form for the first time in Paris. And in 1819 he ~~produced~~ produced the third of his works on a grand scale "Olympie" also in Paris. Then he went to Berlin, and "Olympie" was performed there, but unluckily for him Der Freischütz came out directly afterwards & threw him completely into the shade. He was a man of very volcanic character, egotistical, ambitious - and he did not take his being overshadowed by Weber kindly. Quarrelled with the Berliners and was driven from the conductors desk by a hostile demonstration. He left Berlin in 1842 and lived till 1851 in Paris and Italy. He really was a man of mark and wielded the resources of Operatic art with great force and originality - & seems as one of the great figures in the historic development of the French Grand Opera.

Of the still younger ~~but~~ composers of Beethoven's time
we can at present do no more than recall the date.
There is one beloved Schubert who was born in 1797, 27 years
~~younger~~ after Beethoven; but destined to survive him only by 3
years as he died in 1828. His story is much too copious
to deal with at present, but I hope we may discuss him
next term. It seems almost incredible that Louis
Spohr should have been born before him. He lived so long
and his career came so late that one feels inclined to associate
him with Mendelssohn and, perhaps Bennett. But in fact
he was born in 1784 - fifteen years before Schubert and in
his early days was much under Mozartian influence. He lived
till 1869, long after Mendelssohn was dead - and his works
represent a later and weaker phase than Beethoven.
It is also worth recalling that Meyerbeer also was a contemporary
of Beethoven. Indeed as a matter of fact he was born a little
after Weber in 1791. His great success came comparatively late
in life. It is a little startling too to think of Rossini
in that connection. Yet he was born only the next year after
Meyerbeer - in 1792. But he lived till 1868 and his work being
almost a ~~different~~ ~~new~~ ~~era~~ ~~is~~ and a vastly different type of art from
our glorious Beethoven.